



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 27, 2008

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

Councilor Boni
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Bowen
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Lenares
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Nasinnyk
Mayor Wright

Councilors Absent

Councilor Banach (illness)

Staff Present:

John L. Salomone, Town Manager
Lori Verreault, Executive Assistant
Ann Harter, Director of Finance

III AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS

A Police Officer Ronald J. Tedeschi – Retired

Councilor Bowen moved to table the proclamation for Master Police Officer Ronald J. Tedeschi – Retired until such time when he is available to attend a Council meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico.
Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent)

Councilor Bowen noted that Councilor Banach is absent from the meeting due to illness and passed along Councilor Banach's apologies to the Council.

IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rodney Mortensen, 53 Meadowview Court: Former Mayor Mortensen questioned and spoke about two recent State grants received by the Town to replace the football field turf and to improve the center of Town/Market Square area. He remarked that State grant funds really come out of taxpayers' back pockets and go into their front pockets. He noted that the State has projected an 80 million dollar budget deficit – and yet the State has

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the money for this particular program. Mr. Mortensen stated that he assumed there were discussions with the Council and the CIP Committee to determine that these two grant items are the two most important items. He stated that the turf replacement for the football field had been discussed in the past and it was determined that there was no way that the turf replacement could be accomplished for \$500,000 and inquired whether the Council is willing to look at next year's CIP budget or willing to apply for additional grant money to place the artificial turf. He expressed concerns that use of these funds towards a Town Center project could jeopardize future receipt of STEAP grant funds if the State does go into debt as projected. He stated that this will result in the Market Square project remaining undone. Mr. Mortensen noted that the State of Connecticut does not have the money for judicial increases, money to address home invasion problems or money for nursing homes yet it has one million dollars to create a quad-campus type area in a municipal parking lot. He agreed that work needs to be done to the center of Town, but noted that whether one is sitting under a tree or standing in the parking lot they will still be looking at the backs of the same buildings that border Market Square. Mr. Mortensen stated that this is not the best use of the million dollars, noting the need for repairs at the Town Hall. He stated that upgrading the football field is not the best use of a half-million dollars. He requested that the Council refuse the grant funds since the money can be much better spent on more pressing projects. He noted that a previous Council had sent out a letter through the Town Manager's office stating that any group or committee that applies for any grant for the Town of Newington should go through the Town Manager's office, the Council and the Mayor's office so that all parties are aware of the applications.

V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Cohen moved to add agenda item V-C to the agenda, related to the field house project: Amendment to Resolution No. 2008-51, W.J. Mountford Company Contract. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent)

- A Proposed Ordinance 0709-1, "An Ordinance Providing for the Adoption of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Newington; Providing for the Repeal of Inconsistent Ordinances and a General Severability Section; Providing for Amendments to the Code and Penalties for Tampering with the Code; Providing for the Revision of Certain Ordinances Included in the Code"
 - 1. Introduction of Ordinance
 - 2. Set Date of Public Hearing

Town Manager Salomone stated that this is the first step in the ordinance process. He noted that there are no substantive changes being proposed and that the changes are intended to repeal inconsistencies between State law and the Town's operation and to update to current language. He stated that the items are being formally introduced at the current meeting and that a public hearing date will also be set at the current meeting.

Deputy Mayor Lenares introduced the following ordinance:

INTRODUCTION:

I hereby introduce for the Town Council's consideration a proposed ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Providing for the Adoption of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Newington; Providing for the Repeal of Inconsistent Ordinances and a General Severability Section; Providing for Amendments to the Code and Penalties for Tampering with the Code, Providing for the Revision of Certain Ordinances Included in the Code," a copy of which has been filed with the Clerk of the Council.

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That a public hearing be held on June 10, 2008 at 6:50 p.m. to consider Proposed Ordinance 0709-1 entitled, "An Ordinance Providing for the Adoption of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Newington; Providing for the Repeal of Inconsistent Ordinances and a General Severability Section; Providing for Amendments to the Code and Penalties for Tampering with the Code, Providing for the Revision of Certain Ordinances Included in the Code."

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent)

B Proposed Ordinance 0709-2 "An Ordinance Amending the Newington Code on Taxation"

1. Introduction of Ordinance
2. Set Date of Public Hearing

Deputy Mayor Lenares introduced the following ordinance:

INTRODUCTION:

I hereby introduce for the Town Council's consideration a proposed ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending the Newington Code on Taxation," a copy of which has been filed with the Clerk of the Council.

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That a public hearing be held on June 10, 2008 at 6:55 p.m. to consider Proposed Ordinance 0709-2 entitled, "An Ordinance Amending the Newington Code on Taxation."

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent)

C Amend Resolution No. 2008-51, W.J. Mountford Company Contract

Councilor Cohen moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby amends Resolution No. 2008-51, adopted on April 29, 2008, to authorize Town Manager John L. Salomone to enter into contract with W.J. Mountford Company of South Windsor for the amount of \$1,064,000 for renovations, additions and code improvements to the Newington High School Field House.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel.

Councilor Cohen explained that Board of Education has allocated additional funds for the project in the amount of \$23,000 so that the two alternates that had not been included in the project will now be included. She stated that there is now confirmation of all of the available funds for the project and noted that additionally there are funds allocated from both the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 CIP budget and that funds in the amount of \$61,000 in public donations have been received from the Newington Education Foundation. She noted confirmation that the Board of Education has reallocated \$210,000 from their CIP account and the Board's operating budget will cover \$57,973 for a total of \$1,156,973 allocated for the total project, including the bid, architects and miscellaneous costs. Councilor Cohen stated that the amount is higher than originally anticipated, but it does include all costs except for equipment. Mayor Wright asked whether the contract is being changed upfront. Councilor Cohen replied in the affirmative and that it will not affect State funds.

Deputy Mayor Lenares inquired as to why the Board is transferring funds out of their CIP. Councilor Cohen replied that the Board needed the funds to complete the entire project and therefore reallocated funds from the 2008-2009 CIP account. Deputy Mayor Lenares asked whether there is a breakdown of the other projects affected by the reallocation. Councilor Cohen replied in the affirmative and Deputy Mayor Lenares stated he would obtain the list from Dr. Perlini.

Councilor Bottalico noted a letter from Ann Harter stating that there are funds for the project in the amount of \$1,099,000 and asked for an explanation of the difference between the \$1,064,000 and the \$1,099,000. Councilor Cohen replied that according to Dr. Perlini the Board would pay directly about \$56,000 towards the project. Councilor Bottalico asked whether the total project cost is \$1,099,000 to which Councilor Cohen clarified that the total project cost is \$1,156,973, which includes contingency. Town Manager Salomone clarified that the purpose of the resolution before the Council is to amend the contract.

Councilor Bowen stated that there are basically four sources of funding for the project:

- Board of Education's current CIP and current operating budget
- Board of Education's 2008-2009 CIP and 2008-2009 operating budget.

He noted that the Council passed a resolution at budget time that outlined where all the funds were coming from, however, the Board has since decided to go with the bid alternates which were not originally funded so it found money in its CIP and operating budget to pay for the alternates and the contract will have to be changed to reflect the additional items in order to remain eligible for State reimbursement. Councilor Bowen stated that the Board and Committee feel confident that some of the funding put in place for items such as rock blasting will not be necessary which will help the overall cost. He stated that Ms. Harter is confident that all of the needed funding is in place. He stated that the purpose of the current resolution is twofold:

- To change the amount so that the Board of Education can apply for the State funds
- The Committee demanded that all funds be encumbered for the current and upcoming fiscal year in order to move forward.

Councilor Bottalico asked whether the amount in the resolution is the amount that is eligible for grant funding. Councilor Bowen replied in the affirmative, and noted while the \$1,064,000 is reimbursable the other \$90,000 is not reimbursable.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent)

VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A End-of-Year Transfers

Town Manager Salomone stated that the Finance Department reviews accounts this time of the year and is obligated to come to the Council for approval of interdepartmental transfers. Director of Finance Ann Harter reviewed year-end transfers into the two accounts that are projecting shortfalls by the end of the year, including Personnel and Municipal Insurance. She noted that there are about \$82,000 in savings in other various accounts including Library, Parks and Rec, Engineering, Senior and Disabled Center and others due to employee turnover. She stated that there is \$25,000 projected in savings in utilities, \$18,000 projected in savings in Volunteer Incentive Program stipends and about \$40,000 projected in savings from the snow removal account, all of which will contribute to offset the \$165,000 shortage in the other accounts.

Deputy Mayor Lenares suggested that rather than depleting the excess funds from the snow removal account that the funds be used to purchase snow and ice melt now at a discount rate rather than buying it at a premium later in the year. He asked whether there is a savings available in other departments that can be used towards the transfers. Town Manager Salomone replied that although that has been done in the past it will not be done for salt purchases this year because the new salt storage shed will not be complete until later this summer. Councilor Boni asked whether the Town is planning to piggyback on State salt pricing. Town Manager Salomone replied that the Town probably will, but is looking into all options.

Councilor Bowen asked whether the shortfall in Personnel is as of the present time or projected through the end of the year. Ms. Harter replied that the shortfall is projected through the end of the fiscal year.

B Suspense List/Uncollectible Taxes

Town Manager Salomone reviewed the yearly suspense list that clears uncollectible taxes via State statute. He informed the Council that while the items have been cleared officially off of the financial records the Town does still attempt to collect. Town Manager Salomone stated that at \$96,000 this is the lowest suspense list that the Town has seen in years and noted that the list is comprised of both motor vehicles and properties. Ms. Harter stated that the Town was able to collect about \$35,000 in suspended items last year.

Councilor Bowen requested to see the list sorted by either the Town amount or the total column.

C Appointment of Auditor

Town Manager Salomone stated that the current Auditor, Blum Shapiro, is entering its second year of a three year agreement with the Town, however, the Auditor must be reappointed each year as a formality. He stated that the Town is comfortable with Blum Shapiro.

D Proposed "Classification and Pay Plan" Amendments – Administrative Salary Increases

Town Manager Salomone explained the amendments to the administrative pay plan and outlined the salary increase structure. He stated that eligible classified employees who meet minimum performance standards will receive a 3% base increase plus up to an additional 1% increase based on performance evaluations by department heads. He stated that there are sufficient funds in the budget to accomplish the merit increases as outlined. Councilor Boni inquired as to whether an employee who performed below expectations would automatically receive a 3% increase. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative and stated that employees that perform below expectations may possibly receive no increase.

E Historic Preservation Grant – Town Clerk

Town Manager Salomone explained that the premise of the grant is to assist in offsetting the cost of making land record indexing data from about 25 years ago to present available on the internet and requested that the Council authorize him at the next meeting to go ahead with the grant application.

F Ordinance Review – Quality of Life Issues

Mayor Wright invited Town Attorney Ancona to speak to the Council and to share thoughts about amending or strengthening ordinances that have to do with quality of life issues for Town residents. Mayor Wright asked Attorney Ancona to share his thoughts about existing ordinances as well as to provide information about area towns' quality of life ordinances. Town Manager Salomone explained that quality of life issues run the gamut from blight to animal control to noise and more. He stated that the amendments will be discussed over a period of time and will involve substantive changes to improve enforcement in areas that affect quality of life. Attorney Ancona spoke to the Council about policy issues and presented research of quality of life ordinances from area communities. He stated that there is a delicate balance as to what can be constitutionally upheld in regards to residents' property. He stated an example of the Town of Windham, which has well-drafted ordinances regarding blight and quality of life issues. He recommended that the Council look at additional avenues for enforcement, including the idea of having the Zoning Enforcement Officer issue tickets for items such as junk cars in yards and creating an appeals process for these tickets. Attorney Ancona requested that the Councilors share their ideas regarding these ordinances and asked them to identify areas for further review. The Councilors shared their ideas:

Councilor Cohen:

- The Council should consider the definition of what is objectionable in regards to blight. This can be difficult to define since what one person considers beautiful another can consider to be an eyesore. Town Manager Salomone stated that the definition must be both constitutional and enforceable.
- The current ordinances do not restrict the location of adult establishments, although this is not a problem in the Town at this point. Mayor Wright stated that the Town should be proactive in addressing the ordinance now rather than waiting for there to be a problem. Attorney Ancona stated that the Town of Berlin has done an excellent job with their ordinances regarding adult establishments.
- The ordinance regarding feral cats needs to be updated, as there is the Humane Society and other organizations that deal with feral cats humanely without destroying them.

Mayor Wright:

- The ordinances regarding where halfway homes, group homes and other facilities can be established should be reviewed and tightened. Councilor Bowen noted a concern that Councilor Banach had received from a resident regarding the placement of home daycare centers. Attorney Ancona stated that this slides into the area of zoning. Town Manager Salomone stated that many of these issues, including the adult establishments will be integrated with zoning issues. Town Manager Salomone stated that he will get suggestions from Town Plan and Zoning for areas of improvement and will report these suggestions to the Council.

Deputy Mayor Lenares:

- There are currently establishments on the Berlin Turnpike in which the grass is two feet high and stated that there should be some sort of blight regulation for businesses that require that the grounds be maintained. Attorney Ancona stated that current blight ordinances require that a property be vacant in order for it to be considered blight. Town Manager Salomone stated that even if a property is vacant

there are other limits and time issues involved in order for the Town to be able to take action. Deputy Mayor Lenares asked whether the owner of the vacant Atlanta Bread building can be warned or notified that he needs to maintain the property before it gets out of hand. Town Manager Salomone stated that he would like to put some teeth into the blight ordinance that would allow the Town, with due process, to go in and clean up a property when needed. Deputy Mayor Lenares asked whether the cost of such cleanup would be liened or would it be added to the property owner's tax bill. Attorney Ancona stated that there would be a lien placed on the property.

Councilor Boni:

- Councilor Boni suggested that the Town adopt a blight ordinance similar to the Town of Windham's ordinance to include both occupied and unoccupied properties.
- The Council should consider an expanded definition of a blighted property to include hazardous conditions on the inside of a house or property and should consider ways to help the property owners fix the health or safety hazards within the property. Attorney Ancona replied that a wise avenue to take would be to refer these cases to a charitable organization for assistance. Town Manager Salomone stated that this would be difficult to enforce without external complaints or referrals.

Councilor Bottalico:

- Councilor Bottalico inquired about how the Town currently handles trailers, RVs and boats parked in a driveway or on property. Town Manager Salomone replied that it could be a Police issue depending on whether the RV is registered and that there are regulations regarding where RVs, etc. can be stored on a property. He stated that this is an area that may need to be better defined. Councilor Bottalico noted that a property owner was recently fined by the Zoning Officer for having an RV in the driveway. Town Manager Salomone stated that he does not know the particulars of that case, but noted that there are storage requirements for RVs. He stated that the Town sometimes receives complaints and the Town may take action if a code violation is found as a result of a complaint.

Councilor Bowen:

- Councilor Bowen suggested that for productivity purposes the Council consider appointing a small committee to work with the various departments and come back to the Council with recommendations. Mayor Wright suggested that the Council look at one ordinance at a time as a way to approach the issue.

Councilor Nasinnyk:

- Councilor Nasinnyk stated that the Council should investigate enforcement of the various quality of life areas and investigate the process and effectiveness of such enforcement. Town Manager Salomone stated an example that there are regulations and enforcement regarding snow removal from sidewalks but no regulations regarding items such as grass height. Councilor Nasinnyk recommended that the Town look at what works in other towns in regards to enforcement.

Mayor Wright:

- Mayor Wright noted language in the Windham blight ordinances that states, "*It is being used for or used as store for harbor for illegal activity as documented by the police department or State police, including criminal activity.... Arrest warrant applications and actual arrests or convictions....*" Mayor Wright noted problems with some of the motels on the Berlin Turnpike, noting one particular motel that has had about 1,000 calls to the NPD over the past four years. He noted that there are some motel owners that operate a good business without any problems, but asked whether there is something that the Town can do about the problem locations. Attorney Ancona stated that Windham's ordinance does cover that type of situation and also noted that there is also a Nuisance Abatement Division in the Chief State Attorney's office which has handled a number of these cases. He stated that a referral for nuisance abatement action requires only three arrests for qualifying offences within a twelve month period. Town Manager Salomone stated that there are a few motels that would qualify for the program. Attorney Ancona reminded the Council that only qualifying serious offenses would apply in regards to the referral.

Councilor Nagel:

- Councilor Nagel spoke about repeat offences of Town ordinances and the penalty amount for the offenders. Councilor Nagel stated that some of the fines seem to be too low for intentional or chronic offenders and asked whether it would be appropriate and beneficial to increase the fines. Attorney Ancona stated that all Town ordinances must be pursuant to an enabling State statute and fines must

be within the limits set by the State. He stated that the Town can raise fines right up to that limit, but cannot exceed it. He commented that the Town's fines for blight and other areas are currently in line with other area towns.

Mayor Wright stated that the Council will proceed to look at one or two ordinances at a time and could potentially establish a subcommittee to investigate the issues. He requested that Attorney Ancona research the Berlin ordinances regarding adult establishments so that Newington can tighten its restrictions before a problem occurs. Town Manager Salomone stated that he will get suggestions from Town Plan and Zoning for areas of improvement. Mayor Wright noted that it is possible to make changes and if those amendments do not work out in the best interest of the Town they can always be changed again. Attorney Ancona concurred. Councilor Bowen cautioned that it takes a lot of work and many steps to change an ordinance and it is not something that should be done every other Council meeting. Attorney Ancona concurred. Councilor Cohen commented that it took a long time just to create these ordinances.

VII RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- A. Development Commission
 - 1. Acknowledge Resignation of Michael Casasanta
 - 2. Appoint a Replacement (none)

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the following resignation of Michael Casasanta from the Development Commission, in accordance with a communication dated May 8, 2008.

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent)

VIII TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Bowen moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,027.34 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent)

IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. Public Hearing, Small Cities Grant, April 29, 2008

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing, Small Cities Grant, April 29, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent).

- B. Regular Meeting, April 29, 2008

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 29, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent).

- C. Regular Meeting, May 13, 2008

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 13, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent).

X WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

A Town Manager Reports

Councilor Boni inquired about the current staff level at the Police Department. Town Manager Salomone stated that there are two new hires that are in final training and two more certified officers have been hired. He stated that the NPD is fully staffed at this point, but come July there will be three vacancies. He stated that he is hopeful that the new batch of candidates will include certified officers that won't require training.

Councilor Boni inquired about why the earnings have risen on the Internal Service Fund listed on page 3 of the report. Town Manager Salomone explained that the Internal Service Fund is used for maintenance purposes for capital acquisitions. He stated that the funds are segregated from the capital projects funds. He commented that the earnings seem to be an aberration and stated that he would have to look into the numbers for further explanation.

Councilor Boni inquired about delinquent tax notices and remarked that it is his understanding that vehicle taxes must be up to date in order to register a car with the State DOT, and inquired how people with delinquent car taxes are able to continue to register their vehicles. Town Manager Salomone replied that there is a gap in the time it takes for a vehicle to get on the "do not register" list for the State, but eventually the State list does catch up. He also noted that the registration period is several years long, so taxes may become delinquent when there are still years left on the current registration. He also stated that registrations can be changed to different names to elude the list.

Councilor Boni asked whether it would be helpful to publish the names of delinquent taxpayers in the newspaper. Town Manager Salomone stated that to do so would be costly and many of the people on the list would not care, have moved out of state, can't be found, etc. He stated that he has seen lists published earlier on in the process in which the top 10 or so delinquent taxpayers are published, but stated that the entities on this list are very elusive- companies that have gone out of business, etc.

Councilor Bowen requested to see information in the reports that tracks trends in risk management for the Town and the Board of Education. Town Manager Salomone agreed to do so.

Councilor Bottalico noted the bid of \$483,400 for the new pumper for the Fire Department and inquired whether there are enough funds available for the pumper. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative.

XI COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel reported on his recent meeting with CRCOG, also attended by Town Manager Salomone:

- CRCOG has approved funding for Kelsey Street repaving and repairs up to Christian Lane
- Funds have been appropriated for many projects recently approved by the Council

XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (none)

XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Nasinnyk remarked about the recent State grants received to do work on the proposed "Town Green", Market Square area and turf fields. She stated that she was unaware of the plans for the project, learning about the plans through a newspaper article. Town Manager Salomone stated that he had sent emails to the Council about the grant, and stated that the turf item has been in discussion for some time but the parking lot item has developed somewhat rapidly. Mayor Wright stated that the turf field was one of the top suggestions of the long-term Parks and Recreation study and that State Legislators have made it a top priority to get funding for the turf field. He stated that one of his top priorities for the Town is the downtown area which holds much potential. He noted studies provided by Town Planner Meehan dating back to 1978 and noted that the downtown area does not look any better than it did when he was growing up. He stated that he asked the Governor for the funds and had discussions with various developers about how to make downtown a more viable business district, how to attract more restaurants and how to make it a more walkable area. He stated that the Governor gave the Town a large portion of the money requested and he stated hope that the funding will be approved by the Bond Council and the project will move forward. He stated that he is excited for the grant and thanked Governor Rell

for her support. Town Manager Salomone stated that he has learned that STEAP funds are a different funding source and should not be affected by the receipt of these funds. Mayor Wright stated that STEAP funding is limited to \$650,000 for the Market Square area and commented that the Town should be thankful that the Governor has awarded this additional grant. Councilor Cohen remarked that she is glad that the Town has received the funds but noted that the Mayor has a "vision" for the project and requested to know the details of his vision regarding downtown. She noted that past studies have involved the Main Street area, not the Market Square parking area. Mayor Wright stated that there were studies done in 2000 and 2003 that included the entire downtown area rather than just Main Street. Councilor Cohen remarked that she would like to better understand the Mayor's vision for the area. Mayor Wright stated that the Development Commission will work closely with the project and the Town should be thankful to receive the million dollars to help make downtown Newington a fantastic place. Councilor Bowen stated that former Mayor Mortensen's statements about State funds for local governments is a statewide issue that should be addressed to our State Representatives. He commented that he'd prefer that Newington receive funds from the State if they are available. He also agreed with the Councilors' statements and stated that Council should be part of the process and that it had been discussed that the Council should be kept informed of grant applications. He stated that he was not aware about the million dollar grant application, but commented that he was happy to learn that the Town had received the funds. Councilor Bowen stated that what has been referred to as the football field is actually a multi-sport complex, not just a football complex. He stated that the Council, as the policy making body, needs to be involved with any work done to the center of Town. Councilor Nagel stated that he is certain that future plans and specifics regarding the project will come before the Council for review and input. Mayor Wright stated that all plans regarding the area have been in existence for some time and are a matter of public record.

Mayor Wright informed the Council that the CRRA will go to a single stream process for recycling by the end of the year which is a great direction for the Town and a great opportunity for the Town to do more recycling.

X EXECUTIVE SESSION RE PERSONNEL

Councilor Bottalico moved to go into Executive Session re Personnel at 8:44pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent). Mayor Wright, all Councilors present at the meeting and Town Manager Salomone were present at the Executive Session.

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved to go out of Executive Session at 9:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent).

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach Absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan
Clerk of the Council